GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1795
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008
LOSSES IN TOURISM INDUSTRY
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism industry of Siliguri and Darjeeling has suffered losses of crores of rupees due to blockade of roads on hills and closure of National Highways No.31 as a result of the Gorkhaland Movement;

(b) if so,the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to prevent such a situation keeping in view the above incidents;and

(d) if so,the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT.AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b): According to the information provided by the State Government of West Bengal,there has been a loss of tourist inflow owing to closure of hills and NH- 31. The figures of Tourist arrivals for the last three years are as under:

Year	Total
2006	31,46,445
2007	12,34,705
2008	9,40,967 (up to Sept.' 08)

The figures of reduced tourist inflow reflect the loss to the Tourism Industry in the area.

(c) & (d):'Public Order'and 'Police'are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.As such,the prevention of such a situation is the prime responsibility of the State Government.